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CSU considers projects to go fully renewable

Facilities Engineer Carol Dollard looks at the solar panels on top of Colorado State University's engineering building on Thursday. The panels were the first to be placed on campus nearly 10 years ago. PHOTOS BY AUSTIN HUMPHREYS/THE COLORADOAN

27 companies with multiple plans bid on energy goal

Jacy Marmaduke
Fort Collins Coloradoan
USA TODAY NETWORK

Colorado State University officials are wading through about 75 proposed projects to help the school reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2030.

The university received bids from 27 companies, some of which proposed multiple projects, CSU energy engineer Carol Dollard said.

"We got a lot more responses than we thought we would," she said. "It was, frankly, a little overwhelming."

CSU President Tony Frank signed a Climate Reality Project renewable energy pledge in January 2017 following a student- and faculty-driven effort that included more than 4,300 petition signatures. The university put out a request for proposals later in 2017.

A team of CSU officials and community members is now reviewing the bids, which

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Solar panels sit on CSU's engineering building on Thursday. The university touches the boundaries of 19 electric utilities throughout the state and must work with each to coordinate deliveries of electricity, making shifting to renewable energy complicated.

Focus on Fort Collins
Kevin Duggan
Fort Collins Coloradoan
USA TODAY NETWORK

New email scam uses death threats

For a guy who just had his life threatened, Dan was pretty relaxed.

Dan, who asked that his last name not be used, shared an email with me claiming someone had ordered the writer to "remove" him because "some of your activity causes trouble to a particular person."

The writer went on to state he would take a payment of $2,800 (in Bitcoin) in return for not carrying out the order. Upon payment, the writer would forward to Dan the name of the man the order came from and other information that would be useful to police.

Dan was given two days to decide. Three weeks later, Dan was still quite well and unfazed by the email, which he dismissed as so much nonsense.

He was tickled by the writer's claim to have been "studying you for quite a long period of time."

"If you're going to be following me around, the least you could do is caddy my golf clubs," he said.

The threat, which closed with the statement, "I seriously regret that you became my victim," is the latest in a seemingly never-ending stream of attempts to scam the unwary.

Dan is 74 years old and active in the community. He has a wife and a lot of friends. He's not isolated, unlike many targets of fraud, who are often older residents.

Scammers rely on the vulnerability and trusting nature of some seniors, said Detective Jeff Laguna of the Financial Crimes Unit at Fort Collins Police Services.

A common approach is for a stranger to befriend an elderly person via phone, email or in person. After establishing a relationship and building trust, the stranger hits up the senior for money to address a problem, such not being able to cover the rent.

They'll drain a victim for as much as they

See DUGGAN, Page 4A

Fraud alert

Seniors and their families may learn how to protect themselves from scams during a free forum scheduled for 2:30-4 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive.

The forum is sponsored by the Larimer County Office on Aging. To register, call 970-498-7790 or email ADRC@larimer.org.

USA TODAY
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